Commercial use of land encroached at Airports

3054. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken initiatives to make the commercial use of encroached land at major airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether most of the airports in the country run by AAI are not profit earning;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which the commercial use of encroached land at major airports will be helpful in making the loss suffering airports viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Government has taken initiatives to clear encroachments of land at some of the major airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). The excess land will be utilised for commercial purpose after removal of encroachment and meeting operational requirements and other developmental activities.

(b) to (d) At majority of the airports, because of lack of flights, there is little aeronautical revenue and very limited scope for earning non-aeronautical revenue. However, considerable expenditure has to be incurred to maintain the infrastructure required for airport. As a result, these airports are loss-making. Use of the encroached land for commercial purpose will help to recover a portion of the operational cost and hence, will reduce losses.

Increase of IA flights for Gulf Countries

†3055. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the flights of Indian Airlines to other countries including the gulf countries;

(b) if so, the names of countries for which new flights are likely to be commenced and by when and the other details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not increasing the flights inspite of the increasing demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has recently introduced thrice weekly services to Dubai from Hyderabad.

More services by Sri Lanka Airlines

3056. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka Airlines would operate more services in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy of the Air India to face the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) During last round of air services consultation between India and Sri Lanka held in New Delhi on 17-18th February, 2000, the designated airline of Sri Lanka has been allowed to utilize additional 745 seats per week out of the unused entitlement of the Indian side subject to a Code Share/Block Space arrangement with the designated Indian Carrier. The designated airline of Sri Lanka has also been granted access to Kolkata and Varanasi. Actual operations are however left to their commercial judgement.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

3057. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of subsidy given to pilgrims going for Haj each year;

(b) when it was commenced for the first time;

(c) what was the cost per head;